

The Defects in the present Constitution of the MINT.

Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the

Honourable House of Commons,

It hath been proved and demonstrated before the Committee appointed to Examine into the Abuses of the Mint.

1. That there hath been a great quantity of Counterfeit Money Coyned in the Mint.
2. That there hath been Pursons given out of the Mint to make Stamps to Counterfeit Money with.
3. That our present Money is so disingeniously Coyned, that it may be easily Debased, Diminished and Counterfeited.

False Money
and Stamps
at the Mint
Our Money is
all Coyned.

All which has been occasioned by the want of an Officer Skill'd in all the parts of Coyning; which are these following.

1. The Essay-Master makes the Bullion Standard.
2. The Melter casts it into Bars for Flating.
3. The Flatter makes it fit for the Cutter.
4. The Cutter, Sizer, and Boyler makes it fit for Milling.
5. The Engineer Mills it fit for Stamping.
6. The Graver makes the Stamps for the Impression.
7. It is Stamp'd with an Engine, and then it is finished.

The Officer nor
Workmen are
skill'd in the
parts of Coyn-
ing.

Now there is none of the said Officers, or Work-men, know whether the Essay-Master hath made the Bullion Standard, which is 11 Ounces 2 d. Weight fine, and 18 d. Weight of Alloy.

Nor is there any of them know whether the Melter doth Mould and Temper the Bullion so fit for the Impression, as it might be done.

Neither do any of the rest understand the Business of the Engineer, or the Smith, &c. (that is) whether the Engines are made, and the Money Mill'd so Artfully as they might have done it.

Nor do any of them understand whether the Graver doth perform his part so well as he ought, or could do it; nor He, whether the rest of the Work-men do their several Works as it might be done: Now every one doing his Business as may be most for his own Advantage, they not knowing the Reason of each others Defects, cannot rectifie the said Abuses, by which means the Money is Coyned so defectively, that it is very easily Debased, Diminished and Counterfeited; so that probably our Money, will in a short time, be as deficient as it hath been of late.

They Coyne
our Money so
badly for their
own Profit.

Therefore to prevent the said Abuses for the future,

It is humbly Proposed.

That there should be an Officer added to the Mint, who understands Melting, Essaying, Alloying, Graving, Smiths-work, and all other parts of Coyning, who shall supervise the whole Work, and assay the Money when Coyned, and make Report upon Oath, (how the said Work is performed) once every Month to the Lord High Treasurer of England, or the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being.

There shou'd be
an Officer who
knows all the
parts of Coyn-
ing.

AND whereas our present Money is so Blind, Smooth Flat, and such bad Workmanship, that it is difficult to distinguish the Counterfeit from the true Coyne and is so very easily Counterfeited, and Diminished, that every Smith, Brasser, Founder, Tincher, &c. can do it with great speed and Secrecy, viz. by Casting in Sand, Whiting, Alabaster Chalk &c. or by Stamping with a Hammer of three Pound weight and also can be diminish'd by Filing, and Mill'd again with a small Tool, and a Mallet, which is a great Grievance to this Kingdom, to have our Money Coyned so disingeniously, that it can be Counterfeited with so much Ease and Privacy, As appears by the great quantities of Counterfeit Money already abroad.

Our Money
is so badly
made that it is
easily diminish'd
and Counterfeited.

Therefore to prevent the said Grievance for the future

A Method is humbly Proposed, how Money may be Coyned, so that it will be Morally impossible to Counterfeit.

All Coyning is done either by Casting, or Stamping.

Therefore to prevent Counterfeiting of Money by Casting, it should be Mill'd with a Hollow, or Groove, and then it will be certainly impossible to Counterfeit Money by Casting it. And that this may appear to be true, The Proposer hereof humbly offers, that one of the Exemplary Pieces he hath made, and given to the aforesaid Committee, may be referred to Goldsmiths Hall, and Founders Hall, to make their Reports, whether it be Practicable to Cast it, or not.

Impossible to
Counterfeit
Money by
Casting.

And to prevent Counterfeiting of Money by Stamping it.

The Heads, Letters, and Arms should be so curiously done that few in the Kingdom could do it so well; and rise up so high that it could not be Stamp'd but with an Engine of a great Weight, or by the strength of Horses, Wind, or Water, and then it would be morally impossible to Counterfeit Money without being discovered; whereas now the Money being such bad Workmanship, and so Flat, every Graver, Smith, Watchmaker, &c. can Grave Stamps to Counterfeit Money, and Stamp it with a Hammer, upon a Stone, as an Experiment hath been shewed before the said Committee.

None can Coyne
Money by
Stamping.

If it be Objected,

If it be Objected, That to Coyne Money after this Method, will put some stop to the Mint, and be a great Charge to the King.

It is humbly Answer'd,

That to Mill the Money with a *Hollow*, or *Grooves*, Tools may be made in very few Days, and with little Charge.

Money so Coynd for trouble and Charge be made to Stamp up the Impression so high, as to make it impossible to do it with a Hammer, or a small Engine as now it may be done.

And to make all the Engines go with Horses, may be done for about 100l. Charge and then two Horses will do all the Work which now employs 70 or 80. Men, and Stamp the Money up so high, as to make it impossible to be Counterfeited, by stamping without Discovery

A Meddal of the King's Head and Arms, he can do it so, that it would be demonstrable in itself to be more Beautiful, and Durable than now our Coyne is made, and that it would be morally impossible to Counterfeit it:

And it is humbly presumed, That it should be the Rule in Coining our Money, to give it such Figure that will most defend it from Diminishing and Counterfeiting.

The Proposer hereof being order'd to perform some of his Proposals in the Mint, the Officers and Workmen did not Object against any of his Propositions, but allowed them to be Practicable and Effectual, according to what he had offer'd; but their present Constitution is such, that they cannot Comptrol one another, although they approve of this method which appears, for he Printed the same, and offer'd it to them three Years ago.

In the time of the Roman Emperors, there Money was Coynd with Water-mills, which Stamp'd the Impression so high, that neither a Hammer, nor any Engine now used in the Mint can do it which made the Money so durable, that some of it hath lasted near 2000 Years very perfect. And at this time in Italy, Sweden, Germany, &c they Stamp Money and Meddals with Water-Engines, So that it appears to be Practicable and Useful.

All which is humbly submitted
to your Honours greater Judgment,

W. Chaloner.

The defects of the Mint,
And how to Coyne Money so
that it cannot be Counter-
feited.